

to address the foreclosure crisis and establishing a full and accurate accounting of the uses of TARP funds.

The third reason is safeguards for taxpayer funds that were contained in the detailed conditions the House approved for the TARP funds when it overwhelmingly passed H.R. 384. It is very unfortunate that TARP was mishandled. This bill, TARP Reform and Accountability Act, turns around the discredited "no strings attached" way the prior administration invested the funds. In addition to the explicit protections to taxpayers that had been reasonably expected in the program's administration to date, the bill requires Treasury to reach agreement with recipients of future TARP fund on exactly how the funds will be used and places limits on executive compensation and bonuses. The bill's provisions expand the oversight of the program and direct specific dollars to address housing foreclosures. The written pledges of the Obama administration to operate TARP with firm conditions, greater oversight and transparent accountability abide with the conditions passed by the House.

For the above reasons and because we do not know yet where this downturn in the economy will reach bottom, I voted against the resolution to disavow the release of the second part of the TARP funds to be administered by a new Treasury Secretary committed to protecting the interest of American taxpayers while providing needed assistance to the financial markets.

SYSTEMS HEALTHCARE APPROACH

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in hope of raising the awareness of the House as to the significant health disparities facing medically underserved areas, particularly rural areas and those with large minority populations. Many parts of the country face shortages in health care providers and services. In the rural areas of my district in Eastern Oklahoma, we have a deep understanding of the significant health disparities facing populations in medically underserved areas.

As Congress moves forward with this initiative to stimulate our nation's prosperity, I urge your consideration of the great need in underserved areas for coherent health care delivery systems, systems that integrate primary care, preventive care, specialty care, and acute care, and that are connected through a health care technology infrastructure. I would like to work with you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, as this legislation proceeds to focus funding toward projects that take a comprehensive systemic approach in underserved communities.

RECOGNITION OF WEST VIRGINIA'S ARMY NATIONAL GUARD PAR- TICIPATION IN THE PRESI- DENTIAL INAUGURATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize West Virginia's Army National Guard for their assistance at the Presidential Inauguration of Barack Obama on Tuesday, the 20th of January 2009.

West Virginia provided nearly 500 men and women with the National Guard to usher in President Barack Obama. From crowd control to communication, West Virginia National Guard troops assisted local law enforcement in providing security and other services. In addition, the West Virginia National Guard sent helicopters, airplanes, mobile satellite-communications trailers, medical gear, and a mobile kitchen. Our brave men and women witnessed history and gave their all to help at this historic occasion.

Our heroic men and women in uniform are never far from my thoughts. They are our Nation's consistent example of valor and courage. In West Virginia, they earned a Special Category "First Place" award in the Army Communities of Excellence, ACOE, competition in May 2008 for their strong strategic planning process, communication, and customer-driven focus. Their excellence reflects the hard work and dedication of the men and women not only of the West Virginia Army National Guard, but also of every family member and friend who stands behind them. It is important to remember that our brave soldiers have given so much and have expected so little in return. I am proud to take this moment to recognize the excellence of the West Virginia Army National Guard for all they do to keep us safe from harm.

Our Armed Forces have paid the debt for the freedom we enjoy today, and I will continue, as I have in the past, to do everything I can to honor their sacrifices and service. Our soldiers and their families remain foremost in the thoughts and minds of southern West Virginians, and I will continue to devote my all to those who wear or have worn America's uniform.

HONORING SPECIALIST TIMOTHY R. LONG

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Specialist Timothy R. Long for his service in Iraq. In 1996, when Tim was eleven years old, I sat with him in his middle school classroom and prepared Valentine's Day cards for U.S. troops serving in Bosnia. Thirteen years later, as this Valentine's Day approaches, Tim is stationed in Iraq serving in the National Guard. On behalf of New Jersey's First Congressional District and the entire Nation, I would like to thank Tim for his service and dedication.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL DOUGLAS TEESON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rear Admiral Douglas Teeson who is retiring from his position as the president and chief executive officer of the Mystic Seaport. Admiral Teeson has dedicated his life to public service and I am honored to stand here today to offer these remarks.

Admiral Teeson is certainly no stranger to the people of southeastern Connecticut, where he has lived with his wife Phyllis for many years. He graduated with honors from the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut in 1965 and began his long and distinguished career as a Coast Guard officer. While in the Coast Guard he served in a variety of commands, including a term as head of the major training center located in Yorktown, Virginia. His career came full circle when he returned to the Coast Guard Academy to serve as the 36th superintendent, where he remained until his retirement in 2001.

In 2001, Admiral Teeson assumed his role as President and CEO of the Mystic Seaport, America's premier maritime history museum. Under Teeson's leadership, the Seaport flourished, adding new collections and undertaking historic renovations. During his tenure at the Mystic Seaport, Admiral Teeson oversaw the opening of the Carlton Marine Science Center and the completion of the new 500 ton ship lift facility among other important improvements that revitalized this unique American treasure.

Admiral Teeson has also been an integral part of the fabric of southeastern Connecticut. Admiral Teeson has served on the Board of Directors for The New London Day newspaper and as a commissioner for the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. Admiral Teeson is also a recipient of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce's William Crawford Distinguished Service Award, given annually to an individual who has exemplified the spirit of community service and contributed to improving the quality of life for all of southeastern Connecticut. Never has there been a more deserving recipient of this prestigious honor.

Admiral Teeson's retirement marks the end of an era at the Mystic Seaport. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Admiral Teeson on his exceptional career and to wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Mr. Luetkemeyer. Madam Speaker, I would like to state for the record my position on the following votes that I missed on Monday, January 26, 2009, as a result of an ice storm delaying my flight from Missouri to Washington, DC.

On Monday, January 26, 2009, I missed rollcall votes 30 and 31. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both rollcall votes 30 and rollcall vote 31.